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U.S. Book Official Charged by Soviet With Illegal Entry

MOSCOW, Sept. 11 (UPI)—The Soviet Union today charged that Newcomb Mott of Sheffield, Mass., now under Soviet detention, "illegally" crossed the Norwegian-Soviet border, the United States Embassy announced.

The embassy said Soviet authorities gave the first word here on the case of the publisher's representative following requests from United States officials.

An American spokesman said that arrangements were being made for a consular official to see him "within a few days."

Mr. Mott is being held in the far northern city of Murmansk, the official said. Mr. Mott crossed the border a week ago.

Embassy Calls Him Innocent

The spokesman said that in representations to Soviet authorities, the embassy proclaimed that Mr. Mott was innocent of any wrongdoing in crossing the border.

But the spokesman added, "that we are not acquainted with the facts and we want to talk to Mott."

Mr. Mott, a representative of the Van Nostrand Book Company of Princeton, N. J., arrived last week in Kirkenes, Norway, a town 10 miles from the Soviet border in the far north.

On Wednesday, Soviet officials said he had been arrested for entering Soviet territory illegally.

Release Requested

The Norwegian border police requested Mr. Mott's release Thursday, but said at the time it could be days before the Soviet border police reacted.

Communications along the desolate frontier are very slow. When the respective border officials want to get in contact with each other, flags are hoisted. Couriers then fetch the written notes and return them to their superiors. An answer may take days.

Sheriff Gunnar Haarstad, chief of the Kirkenes police, said that Mr. Mott deliberately crossed the Soviet border a few miles southwest of the official crossing point.

Mr. Mott arrived in Kirkenes from Finland last week. Sheriff Haarstad said his investigations have indicated the American had no other than tourist motives for crossing the border.

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